SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, they used unparliamentary words against the students. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Communal tension in Kerala

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, it is very unfortunate that Kerala, a State which is famous for its communal harmony, witnessed widespread communal clashes since 6th December, 2001. Both Muslim and Hindu fundamentalist elements are indulging in riot and arson for the past five days. Reports of attacks on houses, shops, other commercial establishments and centres of worship are distressing.

Sir, the State Government and the police have failed to stop the violence. Unfortunately, a one-sided version from a Union Minister, who belongs to Kerala, was also not helpful in resolving the problem. These incidents have taken place at a time when lakhs of pilgrims, from all over India, are going to the Sabarimala temple. Sir, the vehicles carrying the Sabarimala pilgrims are also being attacked by the miscreants at different places. The *hartal* called by the Sangh Parivar organisations will further aggravate the situation.

Efforts should be made by both the sides to avoid spread of communal clashes and ensure peace and communal harmony. Therefore, Sir, through you, I urge upon the Government to come out with a statement on the latest situation in Kerala.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttaranchal): I associate with the issue and request that steps should be taken to stop the violence. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Sir, there is a reference to my statement, and, therefore, I would like to say something. On December 6, the day when the Ayodhya incident happened, certain organisations had given a call for *hartal* in Kerala. For the first time, in Kerala, in about 30 places, there were attacks on the Sabarimala pilgrims who were coming from all over the country. About 200 vehicles were attacked. Therefore, I wanted that the hon. Chief Minister himself should visit the places and see to it that the miscreants who

1.00 p.m.

were responsible for taking the law into their own hands were severely dealt with. It is a very serious matter. I want maintenance of communal amity, and those who break the law should be sternly dealt with. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Kerala): Sir, the hon. Minister has made some statements, and it is aggravating the communal tensions in the State of Kerala. That may also be clarified.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, the hon. External Affairs Minister has got some important engagements in the evening. Therefore, I request that the Passports (Amendment) Bill, 2001, be taken up first. Only half-an-hour has been allocated to it. So, we can finish it quickly and then take up other business. ...*(Interruption)*...

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) : सभापति महोदय, पिछले तीन रोज़ से बेरोज़गारी की समस्या पर जो शार्ट ड्यूरेशन डिसकशन प्रारंभ हुई और जिस पर इस सदन के सभी माननीय सदस्य बोल चुके हैं, केवल माननीय मंत्री जी को उत्तर देना है और माननीय मंत्री जी प्राय: हर दिन उसकी तैयारी करके आते हैं, आज भी आकर बैठे हुए हैं और मैं सोचता हूं कि वह इस बात के लिए तैयार भी हैं, तो मेरी आपके जरिए प्रार्थना है कि यह बेरोज़गारी की समस्या जो इस देश की तरुणाई के लिए ज्यादा महत्वपूर्ण है, बनिस्बत अन्य डिसकशंज़ के, हालांकि वे भी महत्वपूर्ण हैं, लेकिन जो अति महत्वपूर्ण है उसका अगर कृपापूर्वक पहले उत्तर हो और उसके बाद सीक्वेंसवाइज़ जो गवर्नमेंट का बिज़नैस लिस्ट हुआ है, वह हो जाए, तो बड़ी कृपा होगी।

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, I have already mentioned the reasons why we would like to take up the Passport Bill immediately. After that the reply of the Hon. Minister with regard to unemployment problem can be taken up. ....*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Should we sit through the lunch hour then? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: If it is possible.... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Then we can take it up at 2 o' clock. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is already 1 o' clock. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Sir, it is already 1 o' clock. We request you to adjourn the House for lunch. ...*(Interruptions)*... We can take up the Passport Bill after lunch. ...*(Interruptions)*...The reply of the hon. Minister can be taken up after the consideration and passing of the Bill.

श्री सभापति : यह बिल तो आधे घंटे में समाप्त हो जाएगा।

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : उस के बाद मंत्री जी रिप्लाय दे दें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 2 o'clock.

The House then adjourned for lunch at one minute past one of the clock. The House reassembled after lunch at three minutes past two of the clock,

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair

I. **STATUTORY RESOLUTION SEEKING DISAPPROVAL OF THE PASSPORTS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 2001 (NO. 8 OF 2001)**

II. **THE PASSPORTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2001**

उपसभापति : आप सबको आज ह्युमन राइट्स डे मुबारक हो। आपके भी ह्युमन राइट्स प्रोटेक्ट रहें और चेयर के भी ह्युमन राइट्स प्रोटेक्ट रहें। Now, let us take up Statutory Resolution...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal) : Madam, actually, the Short Duration Discussion on the growing unemployment problem in the country has been going on for the last three-four days. Therefore, if we could have the reply from the hon. Minister, then we can proceed with the legislative business of the Government.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttaranchal) : It has been decided earlier...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : Madam, in the morning...